

Restriction Requirement Response
Serial No. 09/686,516
Docket No. BL055-GN004

REMARKS

Instant Office Action

The October 19 Office action indicates that pending claims, 1-74, are subject to a restriction or election requirement. The Office action indicates that Applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits.

As indicated on Page 2 of the October 19 Office action, it is alleged that the application contains claims directed to five patentably distinct inventions: (1) Species I directed to the details of how to compute a relevance score of a message to at least one topic (claims 6-11, 42-47); (2) Species II directed to the details of how to compute the opinion rating of a message (claims 2, 13-14, 49-50); (3) Species III directed to the details of how market data, based on tracked pseudonyms and community mood measurement, is analyzed to identify correlations or trends for future market events; (4) Species IV directed toward the details of how tracked pseudonyms are used to predict events external to the electronic discussion forums by classifying each pseudonym and assigning a score based on the classification (claims 25-33, 61-69); and, (5) Species V directed to the details of tracking the posting activity of a plurality of posters to identify opinion leaders (claims 34-38, 70-74). Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's description of claims 1, 3-5, 12, 39-41, and 48 as generic.

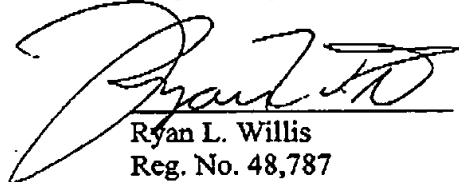
Applicants elect **Species II** and wish to prosecute claims 1-5, 12-14, 39-41, and 48-50, most closely corresponding and relating to Species II, **without traverse**.

If the Examiner holds that the instant election is proper and no generic claim is allowable, cancellation of claims directed to non-elected species will follow. Favorable consideration of the elected claims is respectfully requested.

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In the event that the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response,
please contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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